UNITED
NATIONS

S

Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1998/688
24 July 1998

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 23 JULY 1998 FROM THE CHARGÉ D'AFFAIRES A.I.
OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN
TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit herewith the English translation of the note verbale dated 20 June 1998 from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the Embassy of the Republic of Iraq in Tehran.

It would be highly appreciated if the present letter and its annex were circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Mehdi DANESH-YAZDI
Ambassador
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

98-21708 (E) 270798

/...

Annex

Note verbale dated 20 June 1998 from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the Embassy of the Republic of Iraq in Tehran

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran presents its compliments to the Embassy of the Republic of Iraq in Tehran and has the honour to state the following.

Relevant Iranian border authorities have reported that on 7 May 1998, at 2300 hours, an armed Iraqi group crossed the border and infiltrated into the territory of the Islamic Republic of Iran, capturing a number of Iranian farmer who were harvesting their wheat crop in the Abiyeh area (between Abujamousa and Khorrabeh, Bostan border area) and took them into the Iraqi territory as hostages.

The said group has so far released several of the captured farmers but according to those released, four others are still detained by this armed group which is demanding a cash ransom of Rls 80 million for their release.

The names of the captured farmers are as follows:

1. Abbas Beit Ahmad, son of Jasb;

2. Abour Abidavi, son of Saleh;

3. Ayat Zareh, combine driver;

4. Ali Zareh, combine driver.

The Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran, while registering its strong objection to the wrongful and improper act committed by this armed Iraqi group in crossing the common border between the two countries and infiltrating the territory of the Islamic Republic of Iran, holds the Government of Iraq, because of its negligence and non-compliance with its international obligations responsible as to the consequences of the said armed action and urgently requests the latter to release the above-mentioned four Iranian farmers and prevent the recurrence of such incidents in the future.

It is needless to point out that the responsibility for any adverse effect of such incidents should be borne by the Government of Iraq.